

5000 West

The privileged
list – our
retirees

✱ see page 2 ✱

A Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center publication, 5000 West National Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

Vol. 15, No. 1

Monday, February 6, 2006*



Watch dreams come true...

You have an **extra special** team to cheer for at the Olympics

by John W. Zewiske



Going to Torino! Coach Neil Doese takes a deep breath at a school send-off Tuesday. He is coaching the U.S. Women's Curling Team. His wife Gail and son Richard (Rich) work at the Medical Center.

Gail and Rich Doese look over the scheduled television coverage of the Winter Olympics. Gail has opted to take vacation time to watch the Women's Curling Team.



Gail Doese is ramping-up! Mostly reserved, Gail, who works in human resources, is ready. On the other side of the Medical Center, is her son Rich Doese, who is also pretty low-keyed. Rich works in medical media, and he too is pumped. It has been a long wait. Husband and dad, Neil Doese, is at the Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy. He's not there watching; he's there as the coach of the U.S. Women's Curling Team.

In a telephone interview with Coach Doese before he left for Italy, you could hear the adrenalin rush in his voice as he began talking about the team and his life of the past few years. To say he has been busy is a gross understatement. As a Vietnam-era Army veteran, he didn't see the world, but joining the Olympics has put a few miles on his travel card. This "coaching thing"

is important, but it isn't his only gig. He is a teacher at Calvary Baptist School in Menomonee Falls, and his slate is full. He recently moved into a new school building that required a lot of hands-on work. Last week he was teaching five classes with two study halls. "The speed of everything right now is a little scary," the coach admitted.

He and the team entered into the Olympic competition, being number two at Worlds held last year in Scotland. The increased media attention is good for the sport "to see a positive spin on what curling is all about." In his coaching style, he "tries to get the nervousness away from the sport," telling his team to go out and perform. "If they perform well, the competition will take care of itself, and there will be a lot of wins as a result of performing." He emphasizes to "perform rather than compete."

Coach Doese has been working with his young team (in their teens and early twenties) of four plus an alternate since 2003. They had just won the Junior World competition. In the past few weeks, the team has grown. It is not just the four athletes, an alternate and the coach, but joining the group is a trainer, a security guard, two team leaders and two athletic development directors.

Before the games, practices were five or six days a week at Bemidji, Minnesota. Two sisters on the team live there, and the other team members joined them. Presently, they are practicing in Torino up to two hours a day before the over week-long competition begins with Norway at 7 a.m. (Milwaukee time) on Monday, February 13. The complete schedule is linked on the Medical Center's intranet site.

Try to spot Coach Doese and his team at the opening Parade of Nations and closing ceremonies covered by NBC. They will be there and waving to you. Many will have camcorders recording images of a lifetime.

Continued on page 2

Coach Doese says he has been “surrounded by great people.” Not just at the Olympics as he parades through the stadium representing US, but throughout his life. He especially notes the outstanding support and prayers of his family. Gail says, “This is part of his dream.” Actually it is part of *their* dream. The feeling is beyond words when you are blessed to be a part of a dream come true for someone you love. They know that.

And when the Olympics are over and the school year comes to closure, he and Gail may just take a nice little vacation. The coach says that he has heard Bemidji has some pretty good fishing about that time of the year.

To follow the **U.S. Women’s Curling Team**, click on NBCOlympics.com and go to curling on the right side of the screen. In the Medical Center, check the intranet website for the times and networks carrying the games. They can be viewed throughout the Center on channels 20 and 3. NBC television will cover the opening ceremonies of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games beginning Friday, February 10 at 7 p.m. on Milwaukee’s NBC affiliate WTMJ, channel 4 (channel 3 in-house). It will begin with the Parade of Nations and the lighting of the Olympic cauldron in Stadio Olimpico. The closing ceremony will be seen on Sunday, February 26 at 10:30 p.m. All times are Milwaukee times.



It is a big step and not always easy

You are reading the most widely read *5000 West* published during the year: the retirement edition. The new employees probably are not in those demographics, but they, as well as those who have been here a few more years, consider it a privilege to be on this list after many years of service to America’s heroes.

Ambivalence is probably one of the words that could be best used to describe the feelings of those who remain at the Medical Center. Happy to see a colleague’s name on the list, but somewhat saddened to know they probably won’t be as close.

Retirees are always welcome back. It may be difficult for some to return, but once those first words are said followed by a smile, it brings back the “good old days.” Congratulations.

At the end of this list are those who have passed on. Many young and many that thought their stay on planet Earth would be longer. They are missed and a part of the legacy. We mourn their passing but are grateful for their gifts.



Clement J. Zablocki
VA Medical Center,
Milwaukee, WI 53295

The community relations office publishes *5000 West* bi-weekly as a channel of communication for employees, volunteers, patients and friends. *5000 West* is committed to enhancing the image of the Medical Center and its employees and volunteers through information, recognition and entertainment.

Articles of interest are welcome. The editor reserves the right to use and edit contributed stories. Submission deadline is two days prior to publication. Your comments are encouraged and should be directed to editor (002) *5000 West*, VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI 53295: telephone (414) 382-5363 or (888) 469-6614, extension 45363 or e-mail john.zewiske@med.va.gov

Glen W. Grippen
Medical Center Director

Editor – John W. Zewiske
Graphic design – Kim Chapman
Copy editor – Linda Kunstman
Today’s circulation: 1,500

2005 Retirees	Division/ Service	Years of Service
Cheryl J. Albright	Medical Information	18
Carol J. Banks	Spinal Cord Injury	5
Kenneth A. Berg	Facilities Management	22
Charles A. Bokath	Facilities Management	25
Laverne I. Brant	Consultant Care	7
Rosemary Bretza	Medical Information	11
Jeffrey R. Chandler	Prosthetics	10
James K. Chia, MD	Spinal Cord Injury	29
Mary A. Clegg	Rehab, Ext & Comm Care	18
Marcia J. Cornish	Vet Center	32
John W. Croswell	Facilities Management	14
Richard L. Dickinson	Medical Imaging	26
Ruth A. D’Incognito	Medical Information	20
Frances V. Dordel	GLAC	22
Carol M. Eickhoff	Primary Care	5
Richard J. Esser	Clinical Support	10
Bonnie M. Foster	Fiscal	22
Gary G. Gall	Facilities Management	20
Robert L. Grant	Human Resources Mgmt	36
Jerry J. Greenleaf	Laboratory	32
E. Helen Greenleaf	Consultant Care	29
Thomas J. Kafura	Clinical Support	20
William H. Kelly	Primary Care	33
Glenn W. Kornely	Facilities Management	24
Lula M. Lee	Mental Health	15
James E. Lee	Facilities Management	29
Bruce Todd Martin	Chief Information Office	6
Kathleen D. Moerman	Consultant Care	22
Monica E. Nunn	Spinal Cord Injury	22
Jewel L. O’Farrell	Consultant Care	15
William J. Peplinski, MD	Primary Care	32
Mile Plechas	Facilities Management	13
Katherine R. Przybyla	Fiscal	25
Bonnie K. Rochon	Medical Information	29
Gearldine Sanders	Clinical Support	17
Joseph G. Schneider	Laboratory	32
Kerry L. Schwanke	Consultant Care	35
Lois M. Sheldahl, PhD	Research	27
Mary Ann Stackowicz	Consultant Care	26
Pamella J. Tande	Consultant Care	19
Judith A. Torphy	Human Resources Mgmt	11
Joyce C. Torrence	Mental Health	33
Daryl N. Voigt	Mental Health	33
Caroljean Wagener	Mental Health	10
David C. Warltier, MD	Consultant Care	18
Lorayne F. Zingg	Veterans Canteen Service	23
January 2006 retirees		
Leecester Bell	Rehab, Ext & Comm Care	15
Dorothy Klofta	Consultant Care	55
Lyn D. Weigel	Consultant Care	19
Jimmie Wilkerson	Medical Information	21
Remembering those who passed on		
Jacquelyn Desnica	Consultant Care	2
Raymond J. Elfering	Mental Health	1
Sandra K. Hendrickson	Consultant Care	1
Father James F. Kovarik	Clinical Support	6
Hodges D. Lockwood	Facilities Management	3
Judith C. Reed	Consultant Care	21
James L. Scott	Facilities Management	23